

## ***How Do Metaphors Work in Your Classroom?***

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Let's take a look at some examples of metaphors within the disciplines:

### **Metaphors in the discipline of SCIENCE:**

- The Bohr-Rutherford model of the atom in terms of the solar system: electrons orbit the nucleus as planets orbit the sun.
- The cosmos is like a string symphony.

### **Metaphors in the discipline of ART:**

- Bertolt Brecht said, "Art is not a mirror to reflect reality, but a hammer with which to shape it."
- Malcolm de Chazal said, "Art is Nature speeded up and God slowed down."

### **Metaphors in the discipline of MUSIC:**

- John Cage said, "Music is a means of rapid transportation."

### **Metaphors in the discipline of SOCIAL STUDIES:**

- History itself characterized as: a river, a tree, a labyrinth, an ocean, a landscape, a pathway.
- The United States of America is a melting pot.

### **Metaphors in the discipline of HEALTH SCIENCE:**

- Metaphors that often occur during communication between patients and doctors: e.g.) illness as a fire, attack, or puzzle
- A specific treatment or the use of medication likened to "putting new paint on a dilapidated house."

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**Directions:** Brainstorm a list of metaphors that guide your discipline—think specifically about the ones that students will have to grapple with in your classroom.

**Questions to Consider:** *What do these metaphors include and exclude? How do they guide understanding, and how/when do they become misleading? What might be beneficial about unpacking them and determining where and why they break down?*